

Sangamon Valley LEPC

P.O. Box 2105, Springfield IL 62705

January 15, 2015

Summary Report Relative to LEPC Activities During 2014

During calendar year 2014, the Sangamon Valley LEPC convened regularly scheduled meetings on six occasions: January 16, March 20, May 15, July 17, September 18 and November 20. A quorum of our membership was present at each of these meetings. Meetings were held at the Office of the State Fire Marshal (3, January/March/November), Athens City Hall (1, May) and the Sangamon County Office of Emergency Management (2, July/September).

The January LEPC meeting was attended by 18 members and 10 visitors. It provided the Chair, David Butt, with the opportunity to present to the committee the 2013 LEPC Summary Report which was reviewed and approved for submission to the State Emergency Response Committee (SERC). The Chair led a discussion about whether recent railroad derailments with explosions involving Bakken crude oil might change the conversation for how Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) grant funds would be offered in the future. There has been an expansion of rail traffic thru Springfield, but no one has witnessed any unit trains of crude oil on the tracks of the Union Pacific (UP), Norfolk Southern (NS) or Canadian National (CN), which traverse the city. It was postulated that tank car traffic of ethanol originating at Decatur on the NS was our greatest rail hazard. Springfield Fire Department (SFD) spoke about specific firefighting requirements for ethanol and assured the committee that SFD was equipped to handle it. The LEPC accepted a position to participate with a Springfield Area Transportation Study – Citizens Advisory Committee discussing long range transportation planning.

The March LEPC meeting was attended by 19 members and 5 visitors. New Tier 2 Reports are requested from all filers by March 1. After the deadline, the Chair contacted delinquent filers and by March 20, all 152 reports that were expected, had been received (15 for Menard County and 137 for Sangamon County). The LEPC made its annual review of the Comprehensive Emergency Response Plan for Sangamon County as required by EPCRA. Revisions to the plan were accepted. The updated plan was dated March 20, 2014, for distribution to all LEPC members, all fire departments serving the county, IEMA Region 6 and the SERC. The Chair told the committee about his involvement with a team of 3 graduate students at University of Chicago who were looking at the effectiveness of LEPCs. They were preparing a paper to compare and contrast LEPCs serving Cook, DuPage and Sangamon counties in the wake of the 2013 explosion at West, TX that took the lives of numerous first responders. The Chair provided the team with written answers to a list of 15 questions that they submitted.

The May LEPC meeting was attended by 17 members and 3 visitors. This was the sixth year that we held our May meeting in Menard County. It is something that we intend to continue. A report was given on the annual Midwest Emergency Preparedness and Response Conference (MEPRC) in April, including how our 2 attendees worked through a tabletop exercise on its final afternoon with a group that also included attendees from Jo Davies County. The LEPC made its annual review of the Comprehensive Emergency Response Plan for Menard County as required by EPCRA. Revisions to the plan were accepted and the updated plan was distributed.

The committee discussed and approved 3 activities to use current HMEP grants funds for our long-standing Project 1 (site specific planning) and a new Project 2 to pursue a commodity flow study for the UP, NS and CN within the terms of the Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response program. The Chair also shared information from an Emergency Order by USDOT about crude oil moving in unit trains.

In June, railroads began replying to this Emergency Order by sending information about unit trains of crude oil to the SERC, which moved it on to affected LEPCs. The Chair worked closely with 2 members of the LEPC representing transportation and the fire service to decipher our information for its local impact. A byproduct of this effort was a map produced by another LEPC member depicting railroad routes across Sangamon County. Our initial information was that UP had future intentions for bringing unit trains of Bakken crude oil thru Springfield on its tracks that are shared with AMTRAK. By early July, those intentions were amended to use a more circuitous eastern route and fully avoid our planning district.

The July LEPC meeting was attended by 17 members and 11 visitors. This was a single topic meeting with a discussion-based activity for Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA). Darryl Dragoo of IEMA was our facilitator. The group focused on both natural hazards (tornado) and hazardous materials (chlorine) using the concept that Risk + Vulnerability = Consequence. Mitigation concepts were also considered as part of assessing risk and possibly lessening impact.

The September LEPC meeting was attended by 19 members and 8 visitors. It was our annual meeting giving the public an opportunity to review planning documents and ask questions. A press release to this effect had been issued and many visitors attended for the primary purpose to look over our plans. A total of 2 comprehensive county plans and 95 site specific plans were on display: 55 plans for EHS storage above the threshold planning quantity (TPQ); 28 plans for EHS storage below the TPQ, 10 plans for Propane storage and 2 plans for Bulk Fuel at a terminal. Two presentations for the LEPC accented critical off-site consequences of hazardous materials releases. Three members of the committee spoke about their role after the release of waste oil into Jacksonville Branch on September 8. The Chair showed a PowerPoint provided by Rockford Fire Department at the MEPRC, chronicling its response to an anhydrous ammonia release. The information provided by the SERC to the Chair regarding the Emergency Order by USDOT about crude oil movements was shared with the committee. For our planning district of 2 counties, less than 10 miles of track in extreme southwest Sangamon County, thru unincorporated Lowder, handles one unit train of Bakken crude oil on a daily basis and nothing more.

The November LEPC meeting was attended by 18 members and 5 visitors. Four members of the LEPC reported on a 2-hour tabletop exercise at Athens, a week earlier, that was hosted by Growmark, Inc. for a fuel spill of gasoline during truck loading at its Menard Terminal. The Chair reported that allocation for the HMEP grant was still uncertain, but that it appears we are in a favorable position. The committee approved progressing with Project 1 by initiating a contract to digitize our printed planning documents with the grant funds that first become available. Additional grant funds will go to an expansion of Project 2 and attendance by our members at the MEPRC in 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

DButt

LEPC Chair